

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:17 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project
Attachments: letter to USDA.docx

From: Mary Kleese [mailto:mkleese@myclearwave.net]
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2009 7:46 AM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Scoping Comments re: CapX2020 project

Ms. Strength,

We respectfully submit this letter on behalf of Holden Township and appreciate your consideration of it.

Sincerely,
Doug and Mary Kleese
4667 Co. 30 Blvd
Kenyon, MN 55946
507-789-6313
mkleese@myclearwave.net

To: Ms. Stephanie Strength
Environmental Protection Specialist

Re: Cap X 2020-proposed route through Holden Township, Kenyon, MN

I-210-001

We live on a 3rd generation farm in Holden Township, Sec. 23 Kenyon MN. Just recently it was brought to our attention via our local newspaper that the newest revised route for one of the Cap X2020 proposed power lines is just south of our property, in direct view and vicinity of our home and livelihood. This was the first that we were made aware of this. We never received any correspondence regarding informational meetings or proposed lines that potentially would be placed so close to where we live. Though it would not directly go through our property, due to the position of our home and land, we are in constant direct view and exposure of the proposed towers. Our strong concerns regarding these proposed lines are threefold; 1) from a safety standpoint, 2) maintaining the rural integrity of the area, and 3) an aesthetics viewpoint.

I-210-002

I-210-004

Firstly, along with farming our own acres, we rent the acreage that the proposed lines would actually go through. Our children pick rocks from these fields twice yearly so our farm equipment is not damaged. We literally would be picking rocks under these towers. We are concerned about being able to run our machinery around and under these lines. We have read about EMF emissions and it appears that not enough studies have been done regarding 345kv transmission lines at this time. It is a real concern!

I-210-003

Secondly, as residents and farmers in Holden Township, we are proud of our agricultural heritage. Our township ordinances reflect this continuing goal to maintain our agricultural area and to provide area farmers the opportunity to continue farming and preserving the agricultural integrity of Holden township. Furthermore, the way the line is proposed, it would run directly down the section, causing a great disruption of the acreage and the farming practices. The number of rural acreage in Minnesota is limited. Farmland is not a renewable resource. It is difficult to understand the reasoning of disrupting and changing this rural area when other rights of way have already been developed. Transmission lines, such as the one's proposed by the Cap X2020 project, would forever disrupt and destroy our rural landscape, and arguably some of the best farm acreage in Minnesota.

Thirdly, we love our home and farm. We are surrounded by fields of corn and soybeans, oak groves, ninety-foot pines and a rolling landscape. We cannot adequately describe how much we appreciate the nature and landscape that surrounds us. The Zumbro River runs close to the fields we farm, wooded acres provide a natural habitat for deer, birds and many other animals. We hike through the woods, walk the fields and play outdoors. Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park is only 8 miles from us. We invite you out to our property to see for yourself what a disruption such a transmission line would be to the aesthetics, rural integrity and way of life for the farmers and residents of Holden Township.

In conclusion, we find it ironic that there is even a proposal to increase transmission lines especially so close to where we live. We, personally, have used less electricity the past few years due to our concerted effort of conservation. Our government agencies have spent a great deal of time and money

I-210-001

Your comment has been noted. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities are striving to provide the most up to date information in a timely manner. Project information is updated regularly on the project website, www.capx2020.com.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-210-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-210-003

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

I-210-004

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

advocating conservation, and its working. More and more Minnesotans are seeing the need for conservation of energy and the last 2 years of consumption have decreased.

I-210-005

We would like to add this for consideration; why is the disruption to all of these prime farmland acres, (the acreage of which is already shrinking in this state) our agricultural heritage and way of life even being considered when agriculture hasn't created the suggested need for more power?

Respectfully submitted,

Doug and Mary Kleese

Holden Township

4667 Co. 30 Blvd

Kenyon, MN 55946

507-789-6313

I-210-005

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.